



STATEMENTS BY HELEN CLARK

**A series of comments by Rt Hon Helen Clark
Date: 2002 and 2003**

Background

The comments below were made in May 2003 in response to the US and UK going to war in Iraq without a UN resolution.

Source: Retrieved 5 May 2015 from <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2003/may/03/iraq.china>

Speech

"This is a century which is going to see China emerge as the largest economy, and usually with economic power comes military clout."

"In the world we are constructing, we want to know [that the system] will work whoever is the biggest and the most powerful."

"It would be very easy for a country like New Zealand to make excuses and think of justifications for what its friends were doing, but we would have to be mindful that we were creating precedents for others also to exit from multilateral decision making,"

"I don't want precedents set, regardless of who is seen as the biggest kid on the block."

"New Zealand has always argued for the rights of small states,"

"We saw the UN as a fresh start for a world trying to work out its problems together rather than a return to a 19th world where the great powers carved it up ... Who wants to go back to the jungle?"



Ministerial Statements — Iraq: New Zealand Assistance

Background

These comments were made in the House in June 2003, as explanation of the Government's decision to contribute to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Source: Retrieved 5 May 2015 from http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/debates/debates/47HansD_20030610_00000076/ministerial-statements-%E2%80%94iraq%E2%80%94new-zealand-assistance

Speech

Yesterday the Government announced decisions on further New Zealand contributions to support humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq. The Government also announced that New Zealand will continue to make a significant contribution to the fight against terrorism under Operation Enduring Freedom.

The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1483 on 22 May cleared the way for international participation in the reconstruction of Iraq. That resolution makes it clear that the UN will play a vital role in humanitarian relief, in the reconstruction of Iraq, and in the restoration and establishment of national and local institutions for representative governance. The resolution paves the way for an internationally recognised representative Government of Iraq to be formed. The Security Council resolution urges member States to play a role in humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation, and welcomes contributions to stability and security. It also provides for those countries like ours, which did not participate in the war and are not occupying powers, to play a role in Iraq without acquiring the status of occupying powers. The Government has always said that New Zealand was prepared to play a role in post-conflict Iraq, but that there needed to be appropriate multilateral cover and authority. UN Security Council Resolution 1483 provides that cover and authority.

The people of Iraq have suffered greatly from decades of conflict—internal and external—from a Government that abused their human rights, and from more than a decade of economic sanctions. Against that background, the process of restoring a fully functioning society and economy in Iraq cannot be expected to be easy. It is vital that, in accordance with the terms of the UN resolution, all countries contribute what they can as quickly as they can. The New Zealand Government has already given practical support to Iraq. It has contributed \$4.3 million through UN agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. We have agreed to provide up to 15 Defence Force personnel to assist in UN mine action service operations there, and two have already been deployed. Now we will provide the New Zealand Defence Force engineering group of up to 60 personnel, including support

staff, to work on reconstruction tasks in southern Iraq. The engineering group will operate with a UK unit for a period of up to 12 months, and up to three New Zealand Defence Force personnel will be based in the British headquarters to support the New Zealand presence.

We have also looked at making a civilian contribution to the reconstruction effort in Iraq. One such area is agriculture, and we have decided to contribute \$1 million to rehabilitate the Iraqi agriculture ministry building in Baghdad. We will also be offering scholarships and custom-made agriculture training courses in New Zealand. Those will help to meet the needs of a generation of young Iraqis who have missed out on education in that critical sector. We are also willing to consider contributing to other civilian tasks that may arise during the period of reconstruction and the subsequent establishment of the Iraqi interim Government.

We also announced yesterday further initiatives in support of Afghanistan and Operation Enduring Freedom. A significant part of the effort will be through the deployment of a provincial reconstruction team. Such a team is not a combat unit. It provides a strengthened military-observer capacity, which also acts as the centre for the facilitation of non-governmental organisation and other civilian contributions to reconstruction. We know that a similar approach was successfully tried in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. In contributing to a provincial reconstruction team we are prepared to lead one if our capacities extend that far, and at present we have a reconnaissance team in the field that will report back shortly to us. In addition, two NCOs will be deployed to work with a British team that is providing training for the Afghan army. We also consider that to be a priority. We are leaving open the possibility of another round of deployments of the frigates in the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

New Zealand has long been known for its willingness to provide practical support to societies that are recovering from the trauma of conflict. The assistance to Iraq and Afghanistan is given in line with that longstanding practice. In addition, the continuing support for counter-terrorism activities makes a contribution towards building a more secure world for us all.

Helen Clark's apology to Samoa

Background

This short speech was delivered in Apia on the occasion of a State Luncheon marking the 40th anniversary of Samoan Independence, in June 2004. It recognises the mismanagement of Samoa under New Zealand administration and apologises for suppression of the nationalist movement and the deaths resulting from an influenza epidemic.

Source: Retrieved 5 May 2015 from

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=2044857

Speech

Ou te fa'a talofa atu, i le paia maualuga ole aso.

It is a pleasure to be in Samoa for this important fortieth anniversary of Samoan independence.

On behalf of all the international guests here today, thank you to the Head of State and to the government and people of Samoa for your warm welcome to us.

The links between New Zealand and Samoa go back a very long way. Samoans and Maori are distant relatives, with Māori travelling down to Aotearoa by waka from their ancestral Polynesian homeland many centuries ago.

European colonisation reached New Zealand just as it reached Samoa. New administrators from afar replaced the local rulers. In New Zealand it was the British, and in Samoa it was the Germans and later the New Zealanders who came. This week we celebrate the fact that forty years ago Samoa regained its independence, and became the first Pacific island nation to do so.

Samoa today is acknowledged as a leader in the South Pacific. It is a nation which New Zealand is proud to call a friend. We work with Samoa in the United Nations, the Commonwealth, and the Pacific Islands Forum. We support Samoa's development through our overseas aid programme. And many of our citizens are also the sons and daughters of Samoa.

In my time as Prime Minister, I have seen my government and the Government of Samoa work together on a number of critical issues.

Only two weeks ago, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele was together with me and other leaders in East Timor to celebrate that new nation's independence. Samoa has sent a number of its police to help East Timor and their contribution has been greatly appreciated.

The Government of Samoa has also been a strong advocate for upholding the principles of the Pacific Islands Forum and of the Commonwealth; principles to which my government is also strongly committed.

Samoa's voice has also been heard on the need to manage the Pacific's fisheries; to provide sanctuaries for the great whales which roam our oceans; to act against the global warming which could have catastrophic effects for some of our neighbours; and to keep our region nuclear-free.

New Zealand is pleased to back Samoa's development with support particularly for the education and health systems. We work closely with Samoa to ensure that what we do meets Samoa's needs.

For many decades now, people from Samoa have come to settle in New Zealand. More than 115,000 people in our country identify as Samoans.

The early migrants came to work in our industries which were crying out for labour. They were hardworking and good citizens. They created communities and families in New Zealand. They contributed to our economy and laid the foundations for the vibrant Samoan community in New Zealand today.

Now we see their children and grandchildren in all walks of life in New Zealand.

Samoans are to be found in our Parliament, our public service, and in the professions, business, and the church. Only a few months ago we were proud to appoint New Zealand's first Samoan judge.

Samoans have also made an amazing contribution to our sporting life and to the arts and culture of New Zealand. Samoan painters, poets and writers, dancers, musicians, and fashion designers are helping create a new Pacific style in New Zealand.

Now, by supporting capacity building programmes in the Samoan and other Pacific communities in New Zealand, we are working to enable many more to participate at all levels of our social and economic life and to make their unique contribution to our country.

Today we come to celebrate Samoa and its people, its culture and heritage, and the beauty of its lands and its seas. We know how dear to Samoans their sacred links to the land, the sea, and their villages are.

We come to acknowledge the contribution of independent Samoa to the wider regional and international communities of which we are part. We come to say thank you to Samoa for the gift to New Zealand of its people and for the part they are playing in our society.

But before coming today I have also been troubled by some unfinished business. There are events in our past which have been little known in New Zealand, although they are well known in Samoa.

Those events relate to the inept and incompetent early administration of Samoa by New Zealand. In recent weeks as we have been preparing to come to Samoa, there has been a focus on those historic events, and the news has been a revelation to many New Zealanders.

That focus has come about because my government believes that reconciliation is important in building strong relationships. It is important to us to acknowledge tragic events which caused great pain and sorrow in Samoa.

In particular we acknowledge with regret the decision taken by the New Zealand authorities in 1918 to allow the ship Talune, carrying passengers with influenza, to dock in Apia. As the flu spread, some twenty two per cent of the Samoan population died. It is judged to be one of the worst epidemics recorded in the world, and was preventable.

There were also the shootings in Apia in December 1929 of non-violent protestors by New Zealand police. At least nine people died, including Tupua Tamasese Lealofioana III, and fifty were injured.

The early colonial administration also banished Samoan leaders and stripped some of chiefly titles. These actions split families apart and many families lost their titles forever.

On behalf of the New Zealand Government, I wish to offer today a formal apology to the people of Samoa for the injustices arising from New Zealand's administration of Samoa in its earlier years, and to express sorrow and regret for those injustices.

It is our hope that this apology will enable us to build an even stronger relationship and friendship for the future on the basis of a firmer foundation. New Zealand and Samoa are bound together by our geography, our history, our cultural and family links, and today by our trade and diplomacy. It is important that we are also bound by our mutual respect for each other.

Today as a symbol of our relationship we present to Samoa a waka huia, used to hold precious taonga. The taonga we treasure today is our relationship with the people of Samoa. May it go from strength to strength.

Ia ola Samoa.